/379 cont./

S 369 [262] Only food seems to have undergone only slight improvement: the couscous of millet or rice (a little fish or meat during periods of abundance) are basic in their diet. Bread, rarely eaten during the meal, is reserved for children; S [271] it takes the place of cake. Water remains the essential [273] drink of the Moslem; water, palm wine (during the harvest), SR [273] and grape wine (on feast days) are consumed by the non-Islamized None.

The frugal housewife profits from the proximity of the S 369 241 438 escale for /380/ the daily sale in the market of the products of her personal garden. She cultivates tomatoes, beans, pumpkins, and okra. At Keur-Issa-Bambara she has tried, with greater or lesser success, to cultivate potatoes and salad greens; the gathering of mangoes also procures a little profit for her. When the harvest from the garden is exhausted, the S [372] collection of dead wood which she will take to sell in the market in the form of little bundles will yield a few coins for her.

In parallel fashion, the husband-cultivator harvests on a plot of his lougan products that are easy to sell on the Thiès market; at Keur-Issa-Bambara he lays out flooded rice-fields and cultivates the sweet potato and manioc, part of which is S SR 369 438 offered to the clientele of the escale.

During the dry season the None principally works at gathering palmyra leaves; they will be sold, as bundles of [314] thatch, for making roofs for the huts of the urban quarters; [342] after the harvest he carries dried groundnut leaves to the city [231] for fodder for the little horses harnessed to the taxicabs.

S SR 369 234 438 Despite the ready sale that can be made with cattle, they are not very numerous. When the epizootic diseases have spared them, they give an appreciable profit to their owner through the sale of milk. At Tiali, the only herd in the village, which contains about 30 animals, belongs to a S SR F single breeder. It is guarded by Peul shepherds who lead it [239] to graze in the neighboring woodlands. The morning milk [465] and the calves belong to the owner; the evening milk goes

22: Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 M537 Senegal MS 37

one coastal area, the Casamancian. Except in these last two belts the climate is deficient in rainfall, and it is the length of the dry season that controls the distribution of plant communities. 137

Along the coast as far south as the Cape Verde peninsula is the southward extension of the sub-Canarian area, a description of which has been given on p. 320.

The Thornland

The thornland occupies the northern part of the colony from a little north-east of Dakar eastwards to Kidira and northwards to the Senegal. This region, it will be recalled, has a rainfall of from 10 to 20 inches. It is a country of spiny shrubs, especially species of *Acacia*, associated with which are the soapberry tree, the African myrrh, and *Combretum aculeatum*. Many of the trees and shrubs are without leaves during the dry season, but some are evergreen. The natural vegetation in this zone has been much devastated by fire, pasturage, and the over-exploitation of the gum-yielding acacias. [314] On the other hand, annual firing of brushwood and grassland plays a subordinate part in modifying the plant life. The more open nature of both the woody and herbaceous vegetation impedes or prevents fires spreading over great extents of country. Tufted grasses are particularly abundant in the open grasslands between, and even under, the trees and bushes.

The Grass-Woodland

If the Casamancian area be considered as a modification of the Guinea subzone, the grass-woodland may be said to occupy the remainder of the colony. The Sudan subzone is, however, the more important. In the western part of the colony the subzones run north-west to south-east, extend across the Gambia, and then turn almost due west and east. The northward bend in the west is due to oceanic climatic influences, and the modified Casamancian area is similarly due to a greater humidity. The vegetation of the zone as a whole consists of a mixture of trees and grasslands, the former either being spaced in clumps or patches or standing as individuals. The grasslands are continuous over wide areas and are fired regularly in the dry season. This firing of brushwoods and grasslands, together with centuries of heavy cultivation, has highly modified the natural vegetation, especially towards the west. This is especially exemplified by forest destruction in the Guinea subzone. [241]

The vegetation of the Sudan subzone corresponds to an annual